

## BARBARA AND JIM BRUCE

(married Sept. 26, 1959)

Barbara and Jim met at an early age – 17, to be exact. Barbara’s brother met Jim first and invited him to their home. Barbara and her family were new to the island so Jim decided to invite Barbara to go water skiing. Barbara recalls the moment he arrived with that sleek red boat behind the car. They skied, rode horses, played basketball and tennis, shot guns and bows and arrows, and just had fun.

Jim doesn’t actually recall asking Barbara out on their first date but Barbara remembers the date very well. They went to see a movie at a “tiny little movie house” at the Casino. Their second date was at a drive-in theater on St. Simons Island.

After three years of dating, Jim proposed. Although he was nervous, he says he was pretty sure she would say yes. Barbara says she “wasn’t surprised at all. There just wasn’t any doubt that it was meant to be.” They were married at Christ Church. They have three



Photo by Rachel Green



children who were all baptized in the same church.

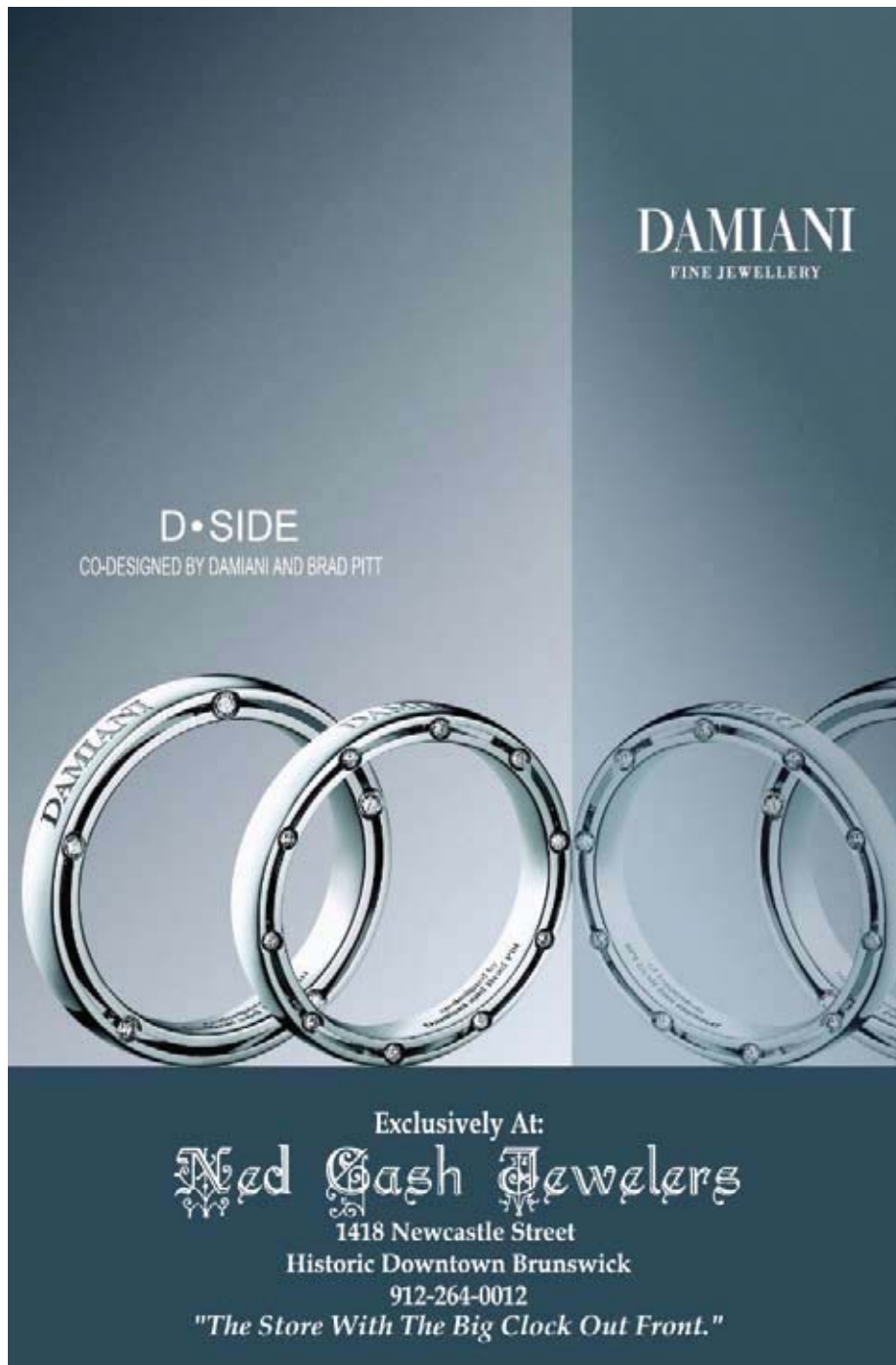
Barbara and Jim will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in 2009. Their advice to newlyweds resonates with wisdom gleaned from good times and trying times.

“Understand that there will be trying times and be committed to working through them and honoring your vows,” Barbara says. “Be respectful of your partner and work at your marriage each and every day.”

Barbara and Jim also work at keeping their marriage happy by doing extra things for each other, things they may not want to do themselves but know the enjoyment it will bring to their partner. They still like to walk hand-in-hand in the woods and always remember to say “I love you” every day.

Author’s Note:

*My husband Steve and I celebrated our 14th wedding anniversary while I was writing this story. It was refreshing to interview each couple and realize that no matter how long a couple has been together, we all share the same beginning. The ultimate combination of a boy and a girl into husband and wife creates a unique and magical story that will be told for years to come. ■*



DAMIANI  
FINE JEWELLERY

D•SIDE  
CO-DESIGNED BY DAMIANI AND BRAD PITT

Exclusively At:  
**Ned Gash Jewelers**  
1418 Newcastle Street  
Historic Downtown Brunswick  
912-264-0012  
"The Store With The Big Clock Out Front."